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COMMUNITY FACILITIES STUDY

THOMASVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

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COMMUNITY FACILITIES STUDY

THOMASVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

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INTRODUCTION

METHODOLOGY

SCOPE

GENERAL

STUDY AREA

INTRODUCTION

A Community Facilities Study is an inventory of the service functions carried out by the City of Thomasville, the School District, the County and related agencies. It is the purpose of this study to direct attention to the service functions and responsibilities of the City of Thomasville as they have important comprehensive plan implications.

The Planning Commission cannot conduct intelligent planning until it has an appreciation of the service functions and community facilities. It is, therefore, important that this study be undertaken because it familiarizes the Planning Commission with the level of service that is provided in Thomasville so that the existence and/or nonexistence of these services are recognized in the preparation of the Land Development Plan. It requires little demonstration to show how the supply or quality of water may have an influence on plat approval, how fire protection methods may influence the design of streets and how municipal operations may affect the planning and location of public buildings. It is evident then that long-range physical planning and community facilities (water, sewers, police and fire protection, streets, schools and other public buildings) are interrelated because together they help make up the physical pattern in Thomasville.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology in preparing this study was to inventory the existing facilities and compare them with accepted standards. By doing this the level of service and the capabilities for the future were determined. As a result of the inventory, certain needs and deficiencies became apparent. Where the needs and deficiencies were discovered this report also contains recommendations for their future improvement.

SCOPE

This study represents an initial analysis of Thomasville's community facilities and services. It is by necessity rather broad in scope and perhaps general in content as it is not the responsibility of the Planning Commission to make detailed engineering drawings, but rather to have an understanding of the supply and demand aspects of the facilities and services. Through the knowledge gained by this study, the Commission is better able to promote good land use planning in the Land Development Plan.

It is hoped that as a result of this study a seed of interest is planted in the minds of those responsible for preparing the City for a better tomorrow. This interest can be carried forward by making more detailed studies of present deficiencies in the community facilities. This type of action should be undertaken before many of the recommendations contained herein are carried out.

GENERAL

The increasing population and the subsequent growth of urban development is placing unprecedented demands on the community facilities of Thomasville. In almost every category severe shortages have arisen. The water and sewerage systems, streets, hospital, school buildings, and others have fallen at times below the minimum acceptable requirements.

Basically there are three factors that explain why the demands are created. First, the City has an accumulated backlog of construction which has been postponed during the past decade. Second, a replacement demand exists for facilities which are wearing out or which need to be modernized. Third, there is an expansion demand. This refers to the construction of facilities necessary to accommodate the expected growth in population and to bring the level of services up to an acceptable minimum.

The City of Thomasville, the Thomasville School District and private organizations have recognized and responded to the demands, but in some instances they have not been able to keep up with the pace of growth. This is evident in the schools and in the fire protection equipment. The most important facilities in which the City has kept pace are water and sewer services.

The provision of a good level of urban services is important for a city in attracting new industry and commerce as well as encouraging the expansion of existing industry and commerce. With these services the City will be able to move forward in an orderly and progressive manner, ready for the future.

STUDY AREAS

The area encompassed by this study includes only the City of Thomasville (within the corporate limits), the School District and other private concerns. However, in some instances, comments are made concerning the facilities in the urban area beyond the city limits.

In order to gain a better understanding of the reasons why Thomasville should measure the adequacy of its existing facilities, the next chapter is offered on the present and future population.

POPULATION GROWTH PATTERNS

POPULATION GROWTH PATTERNS

During the period of years from 1930 to 1950 Thomasville experienced a modest population growth of 1,064 persons. (See Table 1). During this period new community facilities such as schools, water and sewerage systems were built to accommodate these people, but with no forethought as to the adequacy of these facilities for future population growth.

TABLE 1 POPULATION GROWTH OF THOMASVILLE 1930-1960

Year	Population	Increase
1930	10,090	
1940	11,041	951
1950	11,154	113
1960	15,190	4,036
1970 Projected	20,300	5,110
1980 Projected	27,500	7,200

When the decade of the Fifty's arrived the tempo of construction and expansion of community facilities increased because the population was growing. New school rooms were added to existing plants; a better source and supply of water was found; all down the line those services provided by the local governments were increased.

Today, Thomasville is just catching up with the demand of the Fifty's and early Sixty's, and the new major facilities being built are designed not only to handle the demand of today but are being built to serve adequately the demands of tomorrow. To better understand why the demand will continue to increase, it is important to visualize Thomasville's regional setting and its potential growth.

Thomasville lies in the heart of the area now called "North Carolina's Industrial Crescent" which extends from Charlotte to Raleigh along Interstate 85. It is into this area that people are moving because of the economic opportunities available to them here. The subsequent result is urban growth in the way of new homes, commercial areas, etc., plus the demand for urban services -- with which this report is concerned.

Thomasville's future population has already been analyzed in detail in the Population and Economy of Thomasville, North Carolina. For purposes of this report it is important to include the population projection as all future community facilities will be geared to the demands of the anticipated growth.

TABLE 2 SUMMARY OF POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY AGE GROUPS - THOMASVILLE, N. C.

Age Groups	1950	1960	1970	1980
0 - 4	1,144	1,725	2,299	3,279
5 - 19	3,184	4,359	6,087	8,187
20 - 39	3,699	4,240	5,004	7,251
40 - 64	2,614	3,921	5,250	6,111
65+	513	945	1,736	2,648
Total	11,154	15,190	20,277	27,476

With an anticipated population of approximately 20,000 people by 1970 and 27,500 people by 1980, it is quite evident that Thomasville is on the threshhold of a burgeoning demand for use of its community facilities. What is important here is for the community leaders to recognize the potential demand and make their current and future decisions on community facilities in light of the expected demands.

For some of the community facilities contained herein it may prove desirable to wait until the need arises before enlarging them; but, for the major facilities it would be desirable to estimate the needs in advance and make improvements before the actual need arises.

PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE PROTECTION

POLICE PROTECTION

FIRE PROTECTION

The Thomasville Fire Department is equipped to offer service for the incorporated area of Thomasville. The department is not permitted to answer directly fire alarms beyond the city limits except in instances where property owners have contracted with the City for this service. However, the department will aid in fires beyond the city limits upon the request of a chief officer of a volunteer fire department if they involve industrial or commercial establishments, churches or schools. In addition, where a church or school fire is involved the City will answer the alarm upon request of a school or church official. This service is provided only if asked for and when the equipment is not in use in the City.

The first fire company was started in 1908 and consisted merely of hose and volunteers. In 1922 the City purchased its first fire truck which was manned by volunteers and one full-time employee. With the employment of full-time personnel the department has improved and upgraded itself so that they are now skilled in fighting and detecting fires.

Personnel and Training

Seventeen full-time men and ten volunteers make up the fire department personnel. Eight full-time men are assigned to each of two pumper companies. A third pumper company is manned by volunteer and/or off-duty firemen. Leadership is provided by the Fire Chief and Assistant Chief who also serves as the captain in charge of one shift of one pumper company. Eight men are assigned to each station -- four to a 24-hour shift except when leave of various sorts reduces it to three.

Formal training is limited in Thomasville at the present time, but firemen do utilize schools in other cities as well as training offered by the State. As a supplement to the formal training just mentioned, firemen receive up to ten hours a week informal training at the station houses in the various phases of firemanship.

Fire Prevention Programs

In addition to fire fighting functions, the department conducts campaigns aimed at eliminating fire hazards. This is accomplished by fire prevention inspections and educational programs. Industries and businesses are inspected on a yearly basis. Residences have been inspected on a request basis, and plans are in the making for inspection of all residences on an annual basis. Educational campaigns include leaflets, posters, and films so that citizens will become aware of possible existing fire hazards.

Fire Fighting Equipment

The major fire fighting equipment of the Fire Department consists of the following:

First Line Pumpers

1956 Seagraves 1000 GPM with 35-foot extension ladder, roof ladder and folding ladder.

1948 Mack 750 GPM with 27-foot extension ladder, roof ladder and folding ladder.

1928 Seagraves 1000 GPM with 24-foot standard ladder and roof ladder.

Reserve Pumper

1922 American LaFrance 750 GPM with 24-foot standard ladder and roof ladder.

By 1965 the 1922 American LaFrance truck will be replaced by a new 1000 GPM truck. When this new truck is purchased the 1928 Seagraves will be moved down to reserve status.

The Department also has a 1941 Dodge pick-up truck that will be replaced in fiscal year 1965-1966 with a 1956 pick-up to be utilized for fire alarm maintenance work and equipped with siren, light, two-way radio as well as various types of extinguishers and allied equipment used for grass and automobile fires.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters' fire insurance rating of Thomasville as determined by the North Carolina Fire Insurance Bureau and the Southeastern Underwriters is Class 6.

These ratings range from one to ten with one the highest rating a city can receive. The better rating a city can obtain results in a lower insurance rate for property owners. The rate reduction is most favorable to industrial and commercial properties.

Thomasville needs to make improvements to maintain its Class 6 rating. The purchase of a new pumper truck is a prime requirement which will help keep the existing rating. Criteria for a Class 5 rating include aspects of the department's organization, the fire alarm system, fire prevention programs, building codes, structural conditions and water supply. The latter is the most important, accounting for 34 per cent of a rating. In order to raise the NBFU rating to Class 5 a long-range comprehensive improvement program is being planned by the City.

Communications

A good communications system is a vital asset to every fire department. Without a good system the fire department would be unable to render effective service in emergency situations. In Thomasville, telephones, fire boxes, and radio equipment in vehicles are used in emergency situations. Ninety-five per cent of all fire alarms are received by means of telephones. Radio equipment is limited to the two first line pumpers, the Chief's car, and each fire station. In case volunteers are needed, they are contacted by telephone or by fire alarm bells that have been installed in the homes of some of the volunteers.

It should be noted that pure fire alarm boxes are going out of style due to the increased use of the telephone as a means of reporting fires. With the use of telephones and a modern radio communications system, the time it takes to alert the fire department and dispatch fire equipment is reduced, thereby reducing the property damage.

A new system, the public safety alarm telephone system, is being introduced in some cities to replace the fire alarm box. This means of communications allows a person to telephone from a

street corner a request for emergency aid such as police assistance, medical aid or ambulance. By improving the communication system of the department in such a manner a better level of protection is offered.

Fire Stations

Thomasville has two fire stations, the Central Station, or Number One, and the Number Two Station. The Central Station adjoins City Hall and was built in 1938, the same year the City Hall was built. The 1956 and 1928 pumpers are housed in this station. The service area of the Central Station includes the central business district and the area north of the Southern Railroad tracks.

When the Central Station was built 26 years ago there was adequate space for equipment and personnel. Over the years the City grew by some 5,000 people and the service area became much greater because of an annexation in 1958. At the same time, new men and equipment were added. This growth was ably handled in the present facility and today it is felt that the size of the station is adequate. However, in the future, if more equipment such as a ladder truck is purchased the station will need to be expanded. Of course, building additional stations will enable the City to reassign the equipment to stations according to the land use they serve.

The City of Thomasville is split into two parts by the Southern Railroad which runs east-west through the City. This railroad and the volume of traffic it carries ties up traffic at grade crossings several times a day. This factor makes it difficult for the Central Fire Station (located north of the tracks) to serve adequately the southern part of the City. City Fathers, cognizant of the time element in getting to fires had a second station built in the southern part of the City in 1947 by bond issue. This station is located on Randolph Street, a major north-south thoroughfare. It is adequate in terms of space needs and is located in proximity to the industrial

corridor and high property value districts.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters has standards which recommend that fire stations be located certain distances apart, depending on the type of land uses they serve. The following are some of the standards:

DISTRICT	RECOMMENDED RADIUS IN MILES FROM PUMPER, HOSE, OR PUMPER LADDER COMPANY
High Value (Commercial, Industrial, Institutional)	3/4
Residential	2

According to the standard of a 3/4-mile radius for high value districts, most industrial and commercial areas are well covered except for industrial and commercial areas in the eastern and western parts of the City. Residential areas are well covered by the two-mile radius. (See Map 1). Although this method of drawing circular boundaries is less realistic than measuring distances from the stations in time-miles, it is a method of determining the approximate areas of good service.

It should be noted at this point that future annexations will render the service districts of the present fire stations inadequate and will necessitate the construction of new facilities.

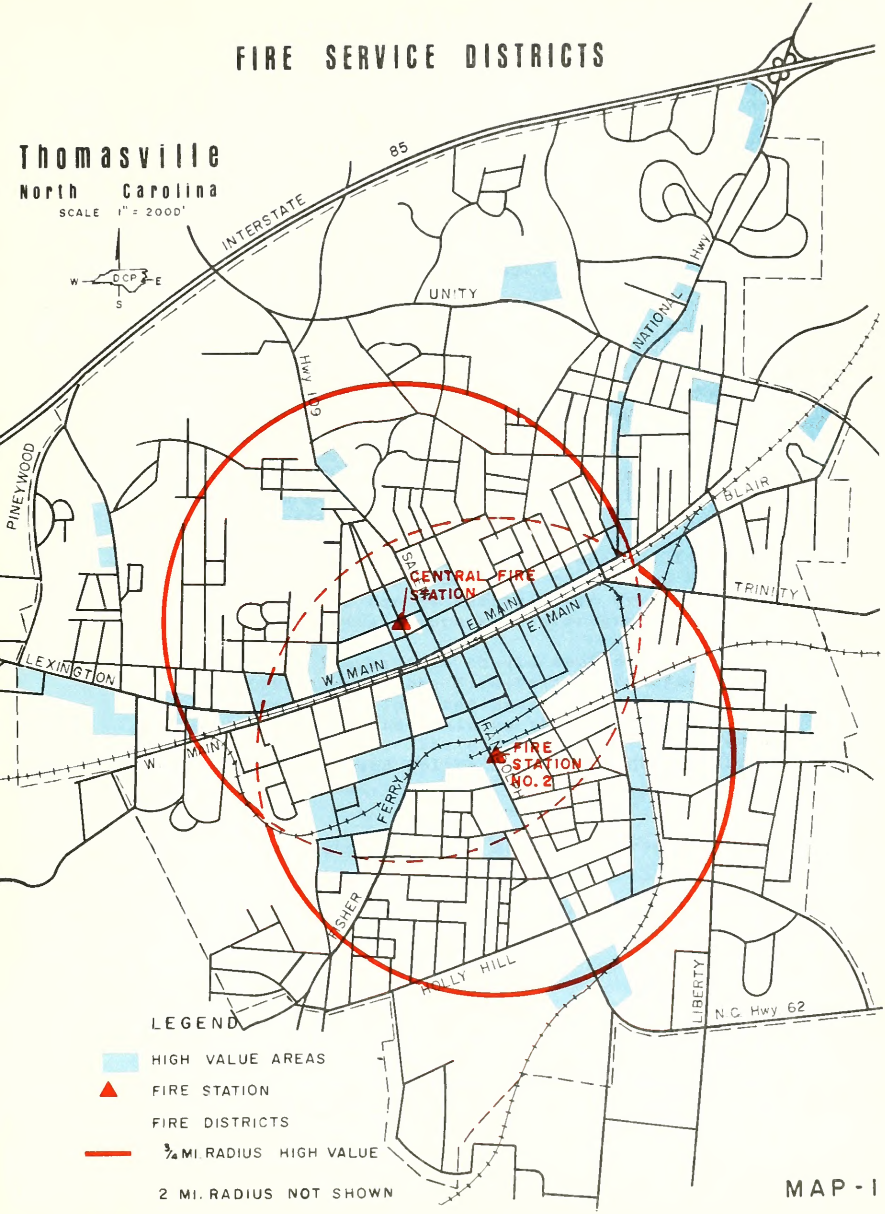
Fire Station Planning Principles

Should the City of Thomasville pursue a program of annexation and/or improve its NBFU rating by building new fire stations, the following locational principles should be followed:

-- The spacing of fire stations should vary in relation to population densities, building intensities, types of construction, pattern of traffic, and the degree of fire hazard.

-- Stations should be located close to and leading into major or secondary thoroughfares.

FIRE SERVICE DISTRICTS



LEGEND

▨ HIGH VALUE AREAS

▲ FIRE STATION

FIRE DISTRICTS

— ¾ MI. RADIUS HIGH VALUE

2 MI. RADIUS NOT SHOWN

MAP - 1

-- Stations should be located on wide streets to permit maneuverability of vehicles.

-- Stations should not be located at major intersections or on one-way streets.

-- Future sites should be of a size that will permit future expansion.

-- When planning for station locations, the topography, physical barriers, high value areas, and points of traffic congestion should be recognized.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. As a means of augmenting the volunteer program, consideration should be given to the possibility of using other city personnel.

2. The City of Thomasville should consider replacing fire alarm boxes with an emergency telephone reporting system.

3. The City of Thomasville should prepare a financial program so that the older fire trucks can be replaced. This can be accomplished by a Long-Range Public and Capital Improvements Program.

4. The City of Thomasville should consider and evaluate the utilization of the Fire-Police concept. This concept suggests integrating some personnel of the two departments and training them at both fire and police protection. The end result is an achievement of better fire and police service at no substantial increase in cost.

The following recommendations are taken from the North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau's report to the City on what it can do to improve its rating to Class 5. These recommendations are based on population, fire defenses, and physical conditions as of February 21, 1964.

Water Supply

Serious consideration be given to elimination of the short length of single 16 inch raw water header, just outside the Abbott Creek Reservoir Pumping Station, thereby increasing reliability of supply

and eliminating any restriction on raw water discharge which is otherwise through dual 12 and 16-inch main approximately 23,000 feet into the filter plant (under construction).

Fire Department

The fire department be organized on the basis of three pumper companies and one ladder company.

A new standard ladder truck, equipped with an aerial type ladder of at least 65 foot length fully extended and the usual complement of hand ladders carried thereon be provided.

Due to the age of the 1928 Seagraves 1000 GPM pumper, it being maintained as No. 3 Pumper Company, a modern listed fire department pumper of at least 750 GPM capacity be installed, and the 1929 Seagraves maintained as active reserve apparatus, at which time the 1922 American LaFrance 750 GPM pumper may be either maintained in reserve or disposed of. (This recommendation will be implemented if September, 1964 Bond Referendum is successful.)

The following equipment be provided: Stack-type tips, 1 inch, 1 1/8 inch, and 1 1/4 inch for each of the two s½ - inch straight stream shut-off nozzles on the 1948 Mack 750 gallon pumper and the 1956 Seagraves 1000 gallon pumper, one additional good 2½-inch combination fog and straight stream nozzle for the 1948 Mack 750 gallon pumper (nozzle to deliver at least 250 GPM), the two s½-inch straight stream shut-off nozzles for the recommended pumper to have stack type tips 1-inch, 1 1/8-inch and 1 1/4-inch, the two s½-inch combination fog and straight stream nozzles for the recommended pumper to be able to deliver at least 250 gallons per minute, one large capacity fog tip for the turrel nozzle now in service, at least six salvage covers and two self-contained masks for the recommended ladder truck.

In addition to Chief officers, radio and fire alarm dispatchers, sufficient full-time paid professional fire fighters be employed so that a minimum of 11 (three with each of the three pumper companies and two with the ladder company) will be on duty at the fire stations at all times, both day and night (including meal hours, days off and vacations). The present arrangement of calling back off-duty firemen should be continued and membership in the volunteer group maintained with a total of 12 active volunteers supplementing regular on-duty paid men.

At least two pumpers and one ladder truck respond to all alarms of fire in the mercantile, manufacturing, school, and hospital districts, and two pumpers in the residential district, except where the telephone indicates an automobile fire, or fire other than in a building, the response may be only one pumper.

The present training program be expanded to include: instruction in fire department discipline, in the use and care of equipment, location of fire hydrants, fire methods, ladder practices, salvage and clean-up work, ventilation, rescue and first aid practices, inspections, fire hazards, municipal building and fire prevention ordinances, the use and effectiveness of various fire streams and portable extinguishers, the use of fire department connections to sprinkler systems, elementary fire department hydraulics, especially as applied to the Thomasville waterworks system, night evolutions, an analysis by field inspection of local building and hazard conditions from a fire fighting standpoint, and the making of sketches and filing of complete records of each inspection. A complete set of records of all training activities of the department be maintained in orderly and legible form.

All pumpers and hoses be tested at least once annually in accordance with standards established by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, with complete records to be kept on such tests.

POLICE PROTECTION

The Police Department of Thomasville has a very important function to perform in the local government in that it must provide law and order and the protection of life and property for the City's citizens.

Personnel and Training

The Thomasville Police Department is currently staffed with 27 men, including the Chief who is the administrator of the department. There are four patrolmen presently assigned in each shift to cover the City. Three divisions within the department are: uniform, records and detective, and traffic engineering maintenance.

Personnel receive their training by attending special schools in nearby cities and at special schools sponsored by the State. Firearm training is offered by the Policeman's Association at its pistol range located adjacent to the Hamby Creek Waste Plant. The City is working on a training program to supplement the training provided by State schools and training received at schools offered by other municipalities.

Major Police Equipment

The major equipment of the department consists of three patrol cars, one detective car, and two pick-up trucks (one for animal control and the other for traffic engineer maintenance purposes). One three-wheeled motorcycle is used for parking regulation purposes. The two cars are replaced each year because of their excessive use. The Chief of Police is not furnished a City vehicle and uses his own car; however, he does receive mileage compensation. Communication equipment is contained in all vehicles, including the Chief's personal car. The department also has other important related equipment for crime detection, and is gradually upgrading and improving its equipment. Major equipment needs are spelled out in the list of recommendations at the end of this section.

General

The predominant enforcement problems encountered by the department include bootlegging, assault, breaking and entering, domestic quarrels, and traffic control. Of these, traffic control takes up most of the force's time. Traffic control includes direction of traffic and apprehending speeders, reckless drivers, intoxicated drivers, drivers following too closely, etc. In traffic enforcement, as well as in crime detection, the department is using the latest equipment and instruments available.

Aside from enforcing the law, the Police Department compiles statistics and offers educational programs to youths and adults.

The Police Department, located in City Hall, is in need of more room in which to operate. Enlargements in the staff, a growing record system, plus new equipment, have made it necessary to use all available space. In the future, as space requirements increase, it may prove necessary to make structural alterations in the building to accommodate the Police Department more adequately, or to build an additional structure for fire, police, and court purposes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that additional men be employed to offer a better level of protection. This would give better patrol coverage in case one man is pulled off for duty elsewhere. As an alternative, a police reserve unit of twenty men could be recruited to work during periods when needed. Also, a study of manpower and its rearrangement for effective patrol coverage should be considered.

2. As mentioned earlier, under Fire Protection, the Fire-Police concept might be utilized.

3. Space needs in the future should be met either by structural alterations in the present City Hall or by the construction of a building for the police, fire, and court purposes.

4. The City should purchase an automobile for the Chief, a radar speed detector, intoxication meter, radios for the trucks, another patrol car, and additional training equipment. Also, the Police Library should be expanded so that a greater variety of educational books can be offered to the policemen.

5. It is recommended that the police training program be stepped up.

UTILITIES

WATER SYSTEM

SANITARY SEWERAGE SYSTEM

WATER SYSTEM

The importance of good water and sewerage services cannot be over-emphasized. The resultant problems of poor systems - health hazards, water pollution, environmental nuisances - that generally arise due to improper waste treatment must be solved. As Thomasville grows it must provide these services as they are determining factors in the locational decisions of industry, commerce, and residential developments.

Some progress has been made toward the solution of current and future problems. The City has established a good supply of water with the damming of Abbott's Creek, and the construction of a new waste treatment plant which is nearly completed. However, there still remains some much needed improvements, as the following two sections will point out.

Water Supply and Treatment

The earliest supply of water in Thomasville was from springs and wells, and each family had the responsibility of providing its own water. In 1911 the responsibility shifted to the City as individual wells were becoming polluted and contaminated, endangering the health of the citizens. At this time the City dug deep wells, provided reservoirs, and laid a distribution system. By 1925 the wells proved inadequate and the City turned to Abbott's Creek for water. It was also at this time that the City built a water treatment plant capable of processing one and one-half million gallons per day. This plant was expanded in 1955 and is now capable of treating three million gallons per day.

The City of Thomasville, recognizing a need for a good supply of water that would last many years into the future, entered into an agreement with the City of Lexington in 1957 to dam Abbott's Creek. The end result was the development of a three-mile long, 800-acre lake impounding two billion gallons of water. Water is pumped from Abbott's Creek to the water treatment plant located west of the city limits on Lexington Road. At this plant, the

water is filtered to remove solids and chemicals are added for purification purposes.

Water Reservoirs and Distribution System

Two pure-water reservoirs are located at the treatment plant and they store 1,480,000 gallons. From these reservoirs water is forced through a 12-inch and 16-inch cast iron main leading into the City's distribution system. (See Map 2). One elevated storage tank of 1,000,000 gallons takes up the surplus water being pumped into the system. This tank serves as a reserve when the demand for water is greater than what can be treated and pumped into the distribution system from the treatment plant. The distribution system serves the City plus portions of the unincorporated area outside the City.

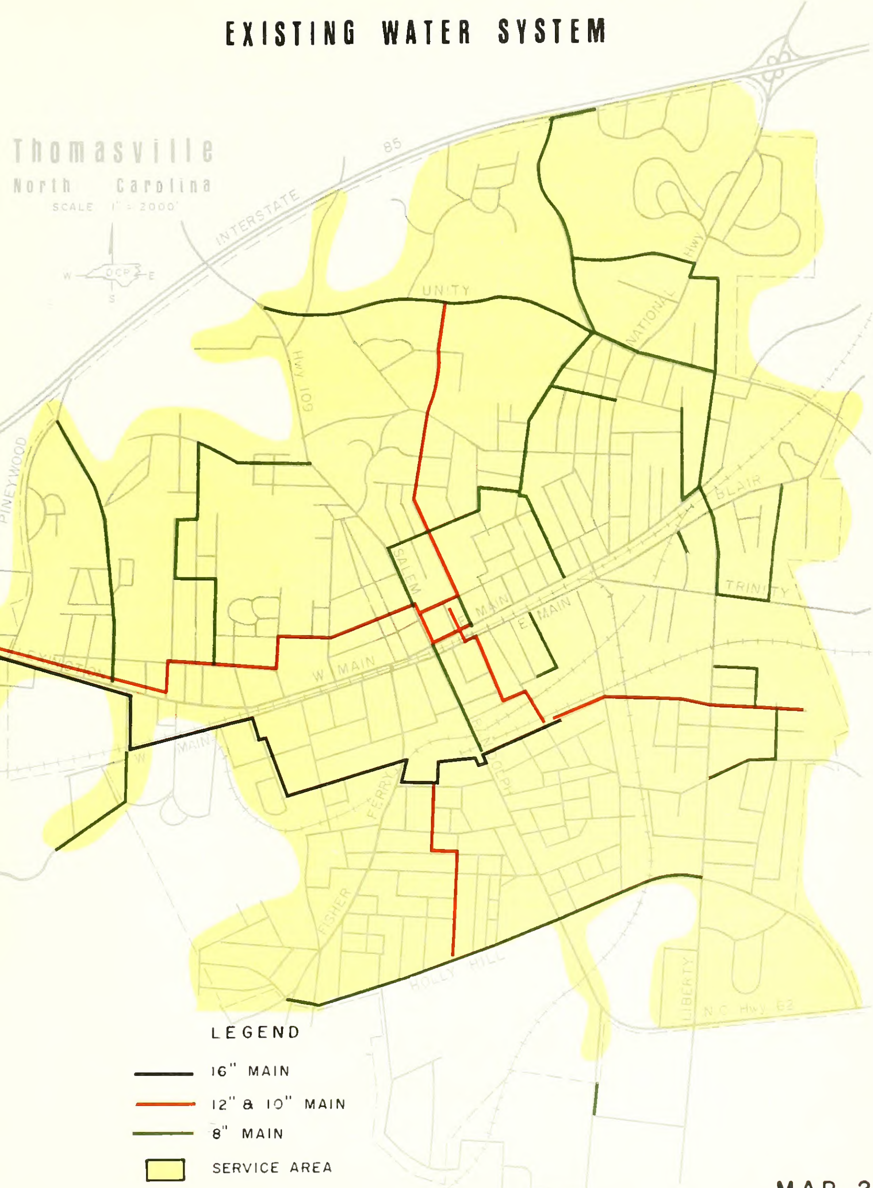
Water Consumption

The present rate of water consumption hovers around two million gallons per day. There are periods during the summer months when consumption reaches 2.8 million gallons per day. The rate of water consumption has been steadily increasing every year, (see Graph 1), and it has been estimated by the consulting engineers that by the early 1970's the water treatment plant will not be able to supply the demand.

For future land planning purposes it can be said that the water distribution system may be adequate and can be extended easily with little or no difficulty to areas not now served with water; however, there are some anticipated problems to be noted.

> The projected population for 1980 is approximately 27,500 people. The limitations in the present system to meet the demand of these people are:
>
> 1. the size of the treatment plant;
> 2. the capacity of the storage tanks;
> 3. the size of the pipes in the distribution system.
>
> Raw water exists in abundance -- it is simply a matter of treating it and getting it to the people in the quantity they want.

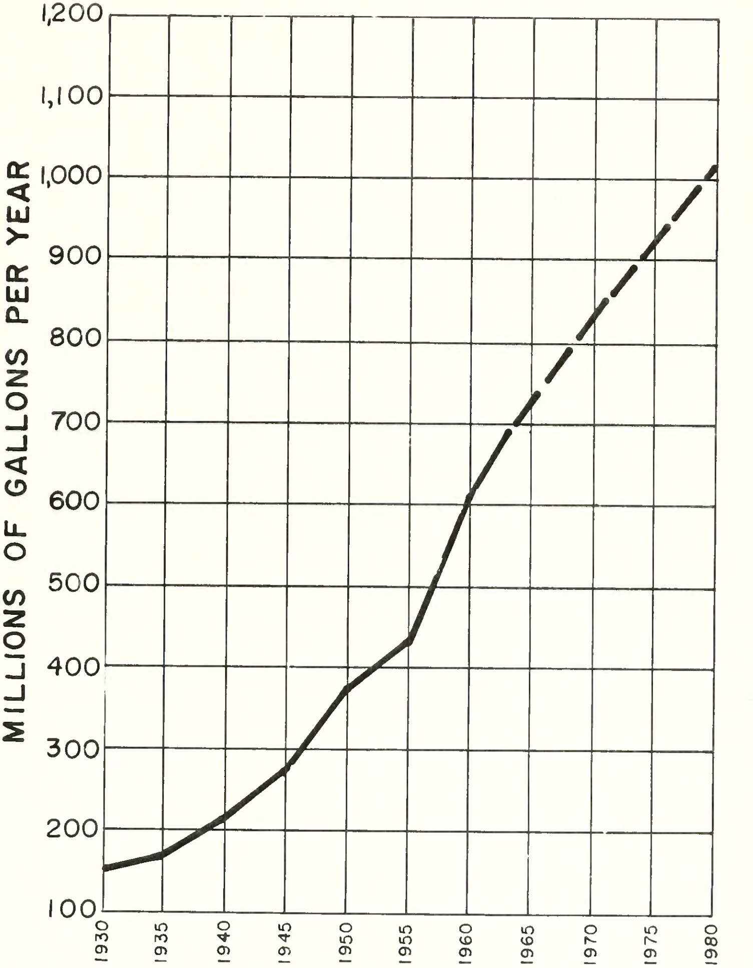
EXISTING WATER SYSTEM



MAP-2

WATER CONSUMPTION

Thomasville, N.C.



POPULATION: 10,090 11,041 11,154 15,190 (20,287 27,476)
PROJECTION

* PROJECTION BASED ON PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION AS OF 1960

GRAPH - I

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The City of Thomasville should have a consultant engineer prepare plans for the expansion of the water treatment plant and other elements of the distribution system.

2. The City of Thomasville should continue its program of eliminating substandard water by replacing existing substandard water lines with larger lines.

3. The size of new water pipes should be capable of handling water for those areas on the fringe of the City that are not now a part of the City, but could be at some date in the future.

SANITARY SEWERAGE SYSTEM

In any community human and industrial wastes must be disposed of in a manner that will avoid detrimental affects on the resources of the community. Inadequately treated sewage can contaminate ground water supplies and endanger the health of the people.

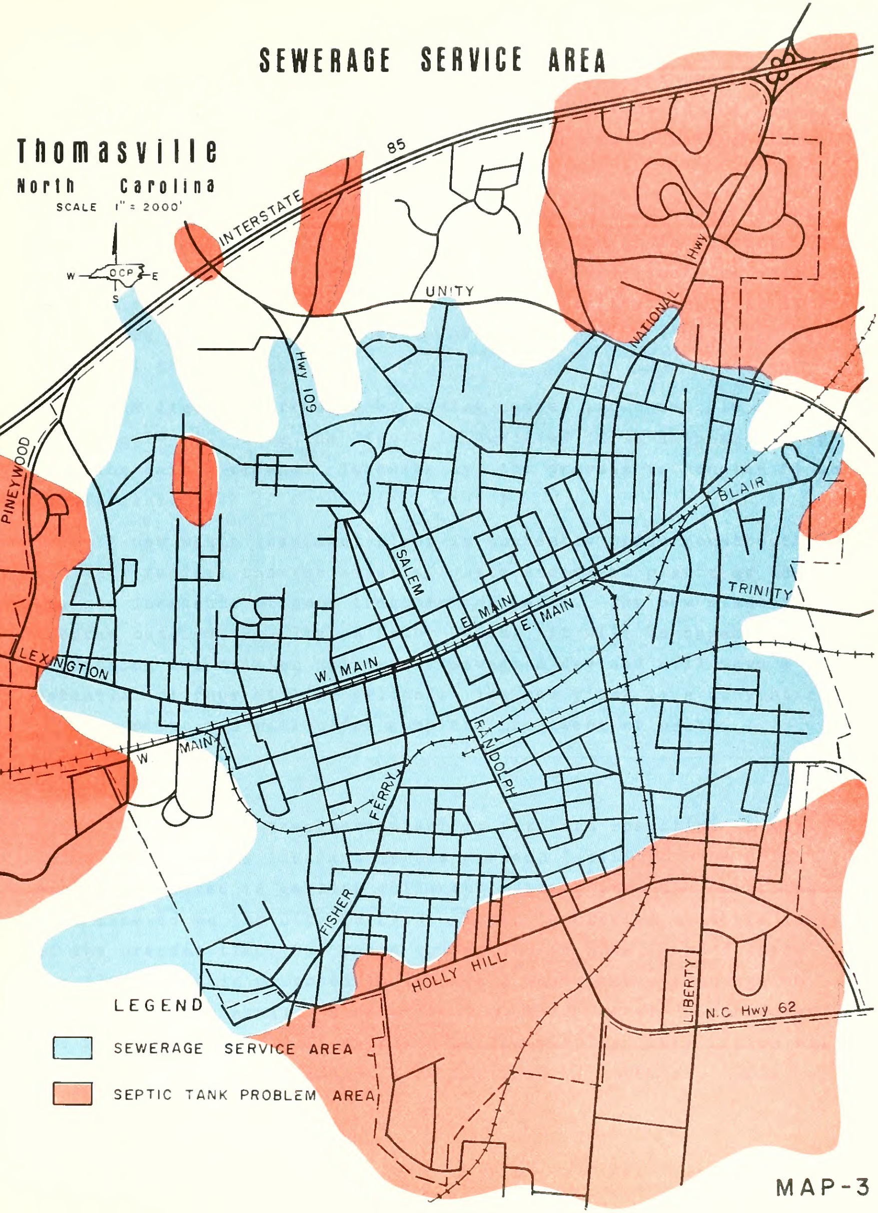
Sewage problems are also the result of the soil conditions where septic tanks are used. There are areas known in Thomasville where the soil is impermeable and is not conducive to septic tank systems. Soil of this type forces sewage to the surface, making a soft spot in a person's yard. This type of condition normally lowers property values. Wherever it is available, people should be encouraged to hook up to a sewerage system. At the present time only about 60 per cent of the urban development in Thomasville is being served by the sewerage system. This figure may appear low, but it should be remembered that the areas annexed to the City in 1958 are not yet being served and it is in these areas that septic tank problems are being experienced. (See Map 3).

Sewers and waste treatment plants are directly related to planning the physical development in a city. The Planning Commission, in preparing its plans, must recognize the locations and capacities of such systems, as these factors represent the upper limits on the density of urban development.

Waste Treatment Plants and Service Areas

Two Imhoff-type waste treatment plants serve the City of Thomasville. The Northside and Southside plants are each capable of handling 750,000 gallons every day. The Northside Plant is located outside the city limits on Hunt's Fork Creek. Its service area includes that part of Thomasville lying north of the Southern Railway's tracks. (See Map 3). The Southside Plant is also located outside the city limits beyond the southeast corner of the City. This plant discharges its effluent into Hamby Creek. Its service area includes that part of Thomasville lying south of the Southern Railway's tracks.

SEWERAGE SERVICE AREA



MAP-3

Water Treatment

Waste consists of liquid and solid waste taken from homes, commercial establishments and industries. The function of the treatment process is to remove the solids, commonly called sludge, and purify both it and the liquid.

The waste upon entering the plant is first given preliminary treatment to remove sand, solids, and other inorganic matter. This type of sewage passes through grit chambers and screens to separate it from the liquid. Once it is separated from the liquid it is digested and drawn onto sand beds. After drying the sludge may be used as a soil conditioner.

The liquid is treated by adding oxygen and chemicals to it to help purify it. Once the liquid is purified it is disposed of by entering into a stream. Technically, the process is handled by an Imhoff facility.

A new waste treatment plant is currently under construction and will replace the two existing waste treatment plants as they are now incapable of good treatment of waste. The new plant is located outside the City on Hamby Creek. It will be capable of processing two million gallons of sewage a day and will have a potential of four million gallons. The new plant is a conventional type plant and will offer complete treatment of waste.

Collector System

When the new treatment plant is put into operation it will solve the problems inherent in the present facility. The only problem expected is getting collector systems into the areas that were annexed to the City in 1958. Water is offered in these areas at the present time, but waste collection is not. A bond issue for $1,575,000 is proposed to finance a waste collection system for the annexed areas. A referendum on this matter is scheduled for September, 1964. If approved by the people, installation will begin in March, 1965, and will be finished by November, 1966.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Urban growth in the area surrounding the city limits is dependent upon individual septic tanks for disposing of sewage. This is not the best method, but it is sufficient for a short period of time. Therefore, it is recommended that a long-range policy be developed that will bring about solutions to the elimination of these temporary facilities.

PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES

STORM DRAINAGE
STREET SYSTEM
REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL
PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING & STORAGE YARD

STORM DRAINAGE

As a city becomes urbanized, a greater amount of the earth's surface becomes covered with asphalt, concrete and buildings which rainwater cannot penetrate. It is, therefore, necessary for cities to provide storm drainage systems to take care of the run-off water created by the hard surfaces. Storm sewers offer protection against major flood drainage as they collect and dispose of rainwater. The system of storm sewers can be compared to a creek or natural drainage area because all water is disposed of by gravity flow.

In Thomasville, wherever there are paved streets there are storm sewers or storm drainage ditches. The size of the pipe depends on the expected precipitation, area, and shape of the water shed, and the ground slope. It is the practice of the city to install storm sewers when streets are paved so that the system is being gradually enlarged.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. During the course of this study it was found that no maps were available showing the size, location, and area served by the storm sewer system. To encourage the keeping of such records, it is recommended that maps be prepared that will show the existing system and possible future extensions.

STREET SYSTEM

The street system is the circulation system of the city. It provides a means of circulating people and goods within and throughout a city. A street system is also the structural element in a city as it provides the form for urban growth. As a structural element it provides boundaries for residential neighborhoods and other major land uses. Viewed in this light, it can be understood that there are various types of streets.

Generally, there are four different types of streets. They are classified because each serves a particular function according to the different land uses they serve. To better understand the four types, a brief discussion is offered.

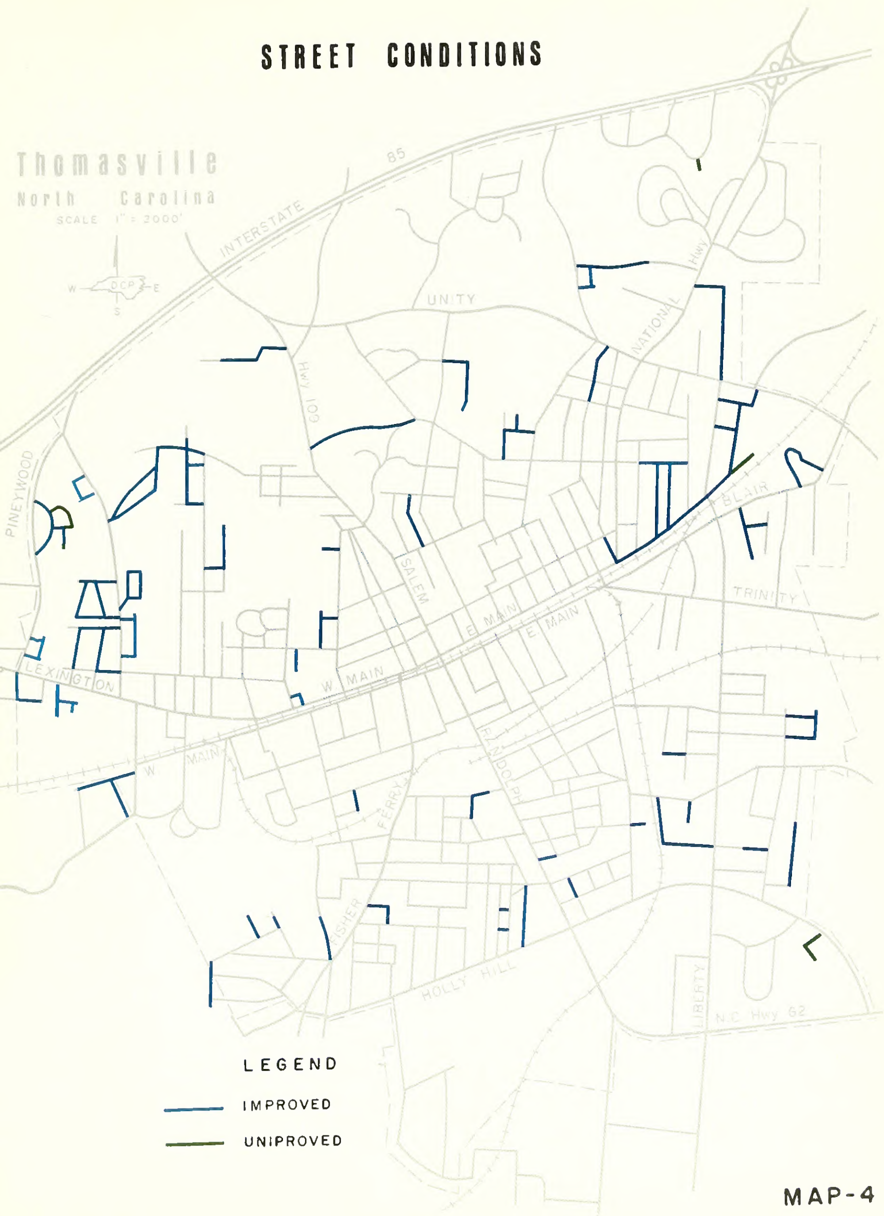
> The local street provides direct access to abutting property and is most commonly thought of as a residential street. Its pavement width is narrow as the traffic is generally light. The local street also serves as a design element in planning for a neighborhood; for instance, a curvilinear street pattern can encourage a stimulating and attractive arrangement of houses.
>
> The collector street is primarily another residential street that drains the traffic off local streets and leads it to a major street. The collector street is of a slightly greater width than a local street as it carries a larger volume of traffic.
>
> The major street - or major thoroughfare - provides a means of cross-town travel to the major working, shopping and living areas in a city. This type of street is used in delineating neighborhoods and serves as a buffer between two land uses. The width of a major street is from three to six lanes, depending on the volume of traffic.
>
> The freeway is different from the other three types. It has controlled access rather than direct access and connects cities rather than neighborhoods. It is also designed for higher speeds than the others.

Streets serve the above-described functions at least in terms of traffic volumes but not necessarily in design. This has been concluded by City and State analyses of travel habits in Thomasville. The City has recognized the inadequacies in the present street system and has contracted with the State Highway Commission to have a major thoroughfare plan prepared.

Street Maintenance and Construction

Street maintenance and construction are the responsibility of Thomasville's Street Division of the City's Public Works Department, and the State Highway Commission. As of 1963, the City was maintaining approximately 65 miles and the State 22 miles of roads.

STREET CONDITIONS



MAP-4

Along with the maintenance of streets, the Street Division is responsible for constructing new street surfaces, curbs and gutters, and storm sewers. The costs of these improvements are absorbed by abutting property owners, but the City furnishes the necessary equipment and labor.

In the subdivision regulations adopted by Thomasville it is required of the subdivider to put in all necessary street improvements. This means that the City is relieved of this expense and can devote its energies and resources to the backlog of streets now unpaved. In time it will be possible for Thomasville to have all its streets paved. The equipment used by the Street Division is second-hand and is purchased from the State Highway Commission. Most of it ranges from six to eight years in age and demands a great amount of time and money for upkeep.

Money to finance street improvements is taken from a revolving fund and Powell Bill Funds. The Powell Bill provides the City with $60,000 a year for street improvements and maintenance. At the present time the amount in the revolving fund is very small and is a limiting factor in the amount of miles of street that can be paved annually. If this fund were to be increased, the street improvement program would be accelerated. As part of the forthcoming bond issue in September, 1964, $100,000 of the total will be earmarked for the revolving fund so that this problem will be solved if the bond issue is voted on favorably.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The City of Thomasville should continue its program of improving the street system. Once the major thoroughfare plan is complete, it should be used as a guide for future improvements.

2. The City of Thomasville has a policy of assessing abutting property owners for the cost of materials in new streets. This should be expanded to include labor costs so that this money could be released from the general fund and then be channeled into other much needed community improvements.

3. The City of Thomasville should start purchasing new equipment to gradually replace the aged equipment.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse Collection

Refuse collection is provided by the City of Thomasville to all of its residents and commercial establishments. Refuse is collected in residential areas twice a week and in the downtown area collections are made daily. Outlying business areas receive service according to the residential schedule. At the present time industry is taking care of its own refuse by bringing it to the City's landfill site. A few industries have requested the City to pick up their refuse. If the City were to give all industries this service the budget would have to be increased some $40,000 for additional men and equipment.

Outside the corporate limits of Thomasville, refuse is collected by private firms operating out of Lexington.

The equipment used in refuse collection is both old and new. The model of the trucks date between 1958 and 1962. The Department has enough equipment to handle the present level of service, but it is evident that the old equipment needs replacing.

Refuse Disposal

The City disposes of its refuse by the sanitary landfill method which consists of dumping the refuse in a landfill area, spreading and compacting it, and then covering it with a layer of dirt every day. Layer is piled upon layer until the landfill is brought up to the level of surrounding land -- thus making it a usable area.

The sanitary landfill is located north of Interstate 85 on North Carolina Highway 109. The site was established about three years ago and consists of about 100 acres with deep ravines. It has been estimated that approximately 450 cubic yards per day of refuse are disposed at the site. It has also been estimated by engineers that at this rate the site should be adequate for fifteen to twenty years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Some of the refuse collection equipment is getting old, which means that maintenance expenditures could be excessive in the near future. Therefore, it is recommended that consideration be given to a program of replacing this equipment on a yearly basis.

2. Should the City of Thomasville expand its program of refuse collection to include industrial refuse, it is recommended that study be given to charging a rate for this service to defray the City's added expense.

3. The sanitary landfill is expected to be adequate for a minimum of fifteen years. This period of time falls within the twenty-year planning program. Because the City is sole owner of this large tract of land and because it is adjacent to Interstate 85 and an interchange, it is recommended that the City weigh the possibility of using it to attract future industry.

4. Before the landfill site is completely filled, the City should purchase another site. The best site would be in the same general locale because of the rough terrain. It is recommended that the City consider acquiring more land in this area.

PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING AND STORAGE YARD

The Public Works yard and building are located on a 12.4 acre site that was once used for a sanitary landfill. This site is located at the intersection of Doak and Barnwell Streets. The Assistant Director of Public Works, the garage, Sanitation, Street, and Water Superintendents' offices are housed in the Public Works building -- which was built in 1960. Most of the equipment is stored outside, although some is kept in storage sheds. All City equipment is maintained and repaired at this site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that additional shelds be built at the Public Works yards to store equipment that does not receive much use during certain periods of the year.

2. It is recommended that a fence be built around the scrap and stockpile areas so that the unsightliness is concealed.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
THOMASVILLE SCHOOL SYSTEM
LIBRARY FACILITIES

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

City Memorial Hospital is the only hospital in Thomasville. It is located in the southern part of town on Pine Street, one block west of Randolph Street. It was built in 1930 at a cost of $105,000 with a capacity of 30 beds. As greater demands were made upon the facility it became evident that more space was needed to serve adequately the residents of Thomasville; thus, in 1955, 50 beds were added to the hospital by the construction of a new wing at a cost of about $800,000. Currently, the three-story structure has 81 beds and 20 bassinets and is served by 12 doctors. A nurses' home is located on the hospital site and contains 12 living units.

The 80 beds in 1955 might have adequately served Thomasville's population of 11,000 at that time, but today the facility is having difficulty serving approximately 16,000 residents, and this does not include people living outside the corporate limits of Thomasville. Space requirements have increased and currently the occupancy rate is about 93 per cent on a yearly basis. Alterations have been made in the facility to handle more equipment, but space requirements are still growing. If new additions are not made in the near future, the facility will not be capable of serving Thomasville's projected population of 20,000 by 1970 and 27,500 by 1980, exclusive of the population living outside the corporate limits of the City.

There are efforts under way to add more space to the present facility. An architect is preparing preliminary drawings that will boost the bed capacity of the hospital. Although these efforts are several years late, the final results will give Thomasville a hospital that it can be proud of.

As the hospital growth occurs, so will the parking demands. Currently, parking is provided only for emergency cases and for the personnel of the hospital. Visitors to the hospital must park on adjacent streets.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is likely that expansion of the hospital will take place in the employees' parking lot as this is the only area where physical expansion on a large scale can occur. New off-street parking spaces should be developed so that employees do not park all day on the adjacent residential streets. Under the present zoning ordinance one parking space is required for each three beds in the hospital. Plans for expansion of the hospital must recognize this and be prepared accordingly.

OTHER HEALTH FACILITIES

Davidson County Health Department is located in Lexington and a clinic sponsored by this department is located in Thomasville. A full-time nurse is provided and a doctor visits on appointed days. The clinic's service consists of preventive medicines, innoculations, etc. All major equipment and other services are provided in Lexington.

THE THOMASVILLE SCHOOL SYSTEM

The corporate limits of Thomasville form the Thomasville School District. This District is under the jurisdiction of a five-man Board which sets policy to be implemented by the school superintendent who is the system's administrator. Each of the schools in the district is administered by a principal.

There are seven schools currently within the district. Four are elementary schools, one is a junior high and another is a senior high. The seventh school is a combined elementary, junior and senior high school. The location and service areas of these schools can be seen on Map 5.

School Planning

It is the duty of the local School Board to determine the type, size and capacity of the schools. It is also its duty to determine educational policies, govern the design and construction of facilities, and operate them. The School Board enlists the aid of school planning consultants available through the State Department of Public Instruction.

School Site Requirements*

As a means of making an analysis, the existing school enrollments, school locations, and sites were compared against the following school site requirements:

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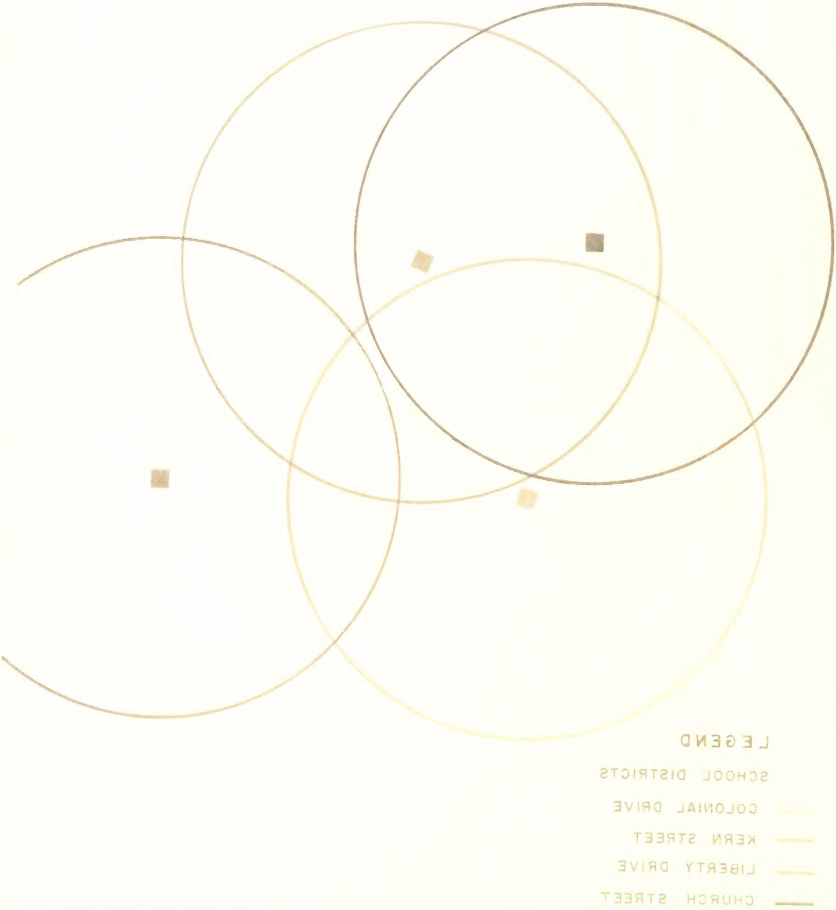
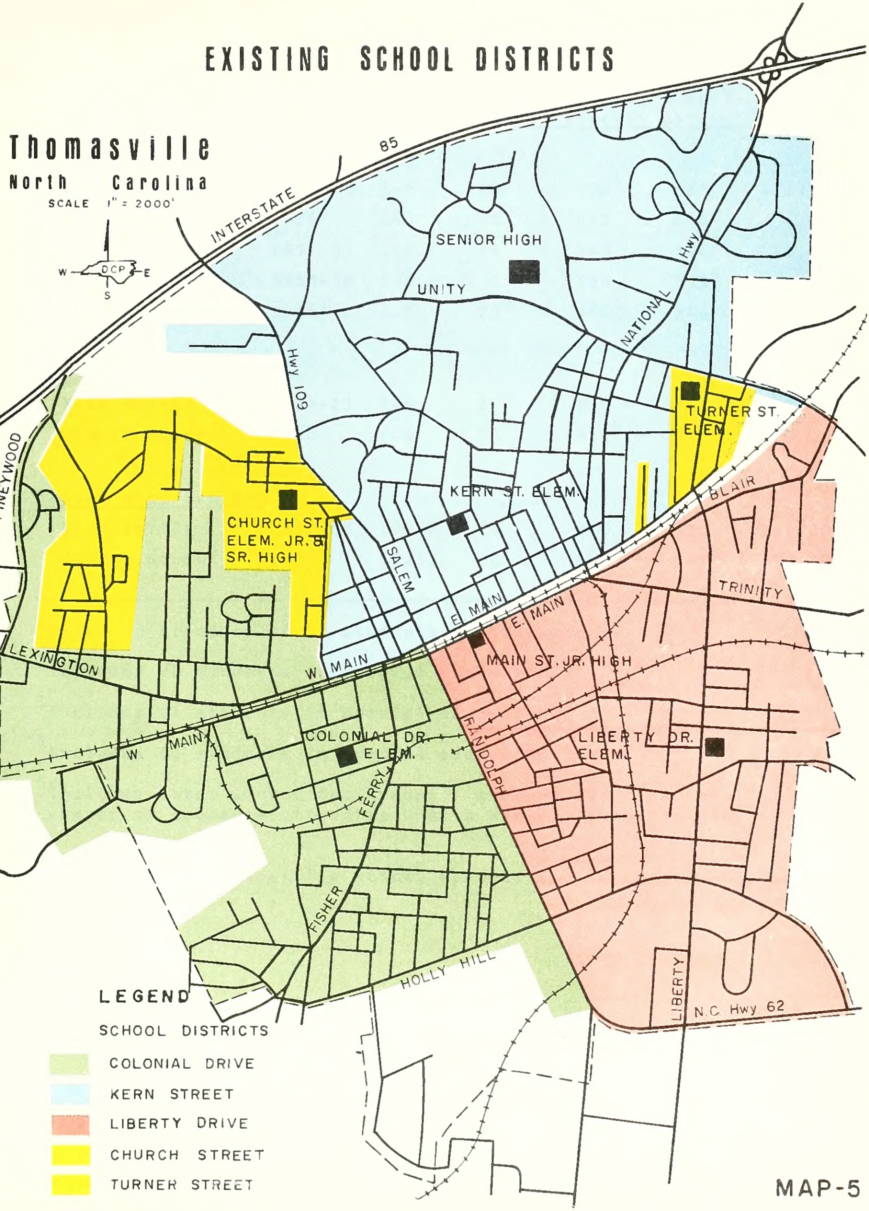
*School Design, The Division of School Planning, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh, North Carolina, August, 1952, (Revised 1962), p 20.

IDEAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS



EXISTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS



MAP-5

TABLE 3 EXISTING SCHOOLS

School	Year Built	Grades	Number Class-rooms	Student Capacity	Enroll-ment	Site Size Acres
Elementary Schools						
Colonial Drive	1927-28	1-6	20	600[1]	655[2]	6.75
Kern Street	1936	1-6	21	630	634	6.00
Liberty Drive	1951-52	1-6	18	540	596[3]	11.00
Turner Street	1958-59	1-6	6	180	223[4]	5.00
Church Street	1936	1-6	28[5]	840[5]	346	10.00[5]
Junior High Schools						
Main Street	1922-23	7-9	31	930	785	6.50
Church Street	1936	7-9	28[5]	840[5]	242	10.00[5]
Senior High Schools						
Thomasville	1957-58	10-12	28	840	632	31.00
Church Street	1936	10-12	28[5]	840[5]	142	10.00[5]

---

[1] Based on standard of 30 students per classroom.

[2] Includes 20 students in special education.

[3] Includes 21 students in special education.

[4] Includes 18 students in special education.

[5] Includes total amount for grades 1 through 12. The total number of students attending Church Street School is 730.

Source: 1964 Thomasville School Records

TABLE 4 SCHOOL SITE REQUIREMENTS

Location: Near the center of existing and future student population.

Free from the nuisance of railroads, factory smoke, noisy enterprises, and cheap commercialism.

Travel Time: For elementary schools - 30 minutes or a walking distance not greater than 3/4 mile.

For High Schools - 45 minutes or a walking distance not greater than 1 1/2 miles.

Access: Over improved roads. Elementary schools preferably not on a major thoroughfare.

Required Site Area in Acres:

Number of Pupils	200-400	500	600	800	1000	1200	1400
Elementary	10	12	12	15			
High School	12	14	16	20	24	26	28

These figures represent minimum areas and reflect the school's physical size, its landscaping, and its playground area.

Topography: Thirty to forty per cent of the area should have a slope of less than ten per cent.

Grass sod or forest cover.

Soil should be well drained.

Analysis of Existing Facilities

Utilizing these standards and applying them to the existing facilities results in the appearance of several deficiencies that follow below in the various subsections. It is hoped that through this discussion that the deficiencies will be alleviated in the future and that the same mistakes will not be repeated in future facilities.

By dividing the City into quadrants with the Southern Railroad serving as the east-west axis and Salem and Randolph Streets as the north-south axis, approximate service areas for schools are made. These four quadrants of the City are approximately one

mile by one mile in size. Although these areas are roughly delineated they do offer a means of analyzing the schools special location and the areas they serve.

In setting up school districts for elementary schools the Board of Education appears to have followed the idea of quadrants. This can be seen on Map 5.

Liberty Drive Elementary School

This school is well located in the middle of the southeast quadrant of the City. Its central location in this quadrant minimizes the travel distance for most students attending this school as access is generally good from all points in the quadrant. The only bad feature is its location on a major thoroughfare. The size of the school site is nearly adequate with 11 acres versus the recommended size of 12 acres. (See Tables 3 and 4).

The enrollment in this school is 596 students compared to the capacity of 540. A new classroom was made available recently by temporarily erecting a wall in a playroom; however, the school is again in need of more classrooms. It has been estimated by school authorities that the school should have six more classrooms to erase present deficiencies and meet the future demands of the area it serves.

The six more classrooms that are urgently needed are to take care of the following:

- to house the class now using the playroom;
- to provide a room for the remedial reading class now meeting in the auditorium;
- to provide for an increase in population in the southwestern quadrant;
- to house two classes now attending the overcrowded Colonial Drive School. (The school district for Liberty Drive would be extended across Randolph Street and into the Colonial Drive School quadrant).

The population is growing quite rapidly in this particular area and future annexation is a possibility in the area surrounding it. These factors will certainly necessitate the construction of new classrooms. Future physical growth of the school can be accommodated on the present site.

Colonial Drive Elementary School

This school is located in the southwest quadrant of the City. Its service area includes the white population residing in the area west of Salem and Randolph Streets. (See Map 5). The school's location is not in the center of the quadrant, but yet it is centrally located in its school district. Access to the school from all points in its service area is not good as it is located adjacent to a local residential street rather than on a secondary street. Students living in the northern quadrant must cross Lexington Highway -- a major street. The size of the site is nearly one-half of what is should be as it has only 6.75 acres against the recommended standard of 12 acres. (See Tables 3 and 4).

The Colonial Drive School has a student capacity of 600 students, but is presently housing 655 students -- meaning that the school should have at least two more classrooms. The school is limited in the amount of room for physical expansion as it is hemmed in by residential and industrial development. Many of the nearby houses are on large residential lots and could be made available through condemnation if school authorities desire this course of action. If this is not practical, a new school may have to be built or the size of the school district should be reduced. If the physical size of the present school is increased the playground will have to be sacrificed.

Kern Street Elementary School

This school is located in the northeast quadrant of the City and it serves this area. The school is not located in the geographic center of the quadrant and therefore does not effectively serve this area. It requires students living in the extreme northeast corner of the quadrant to walk a longer distance than those living in the extreme southwest corner. In other words, the school's location favors the students living in the southwest part of the area. Of course, this school was built in the late 1930's and its site selection reflected the city limits at that time.

At the present time the school enrollment is at capacity and as this part of town becomes more residentially developed, the enrollment will increase. It has been estimated by school authorities that four classrooms will be needed in the near future to handle the anticipated enrollments.

According to the standards in Table 4, the school site should be 12 acres. The Kern Street school falls short of this standard by six acres.

Considering the age of the present school, its limited site size, and the probability of increasing enrollments, it is conceivable that the school's location might be changed within a twenty-year period. If this happens it is advisable to build the school in a more central location in the neighborhood. An advisable location would be near the Senior High School.

Turner Street Elementary School

This school is also located in the northeast quadrant, but its service area is for the non-white students living in this part of the City. This school is relatively new, having been built in 1960. However, it has only six classrooms and already it has a student enrollment of 223 - or 43 students over capacity. (See Table 3). The school site is inadequate with only five acres against the recommended size of ten acres. An again, this is another elementary school located on a major thoroughfare.

Main Street Junior High School

This school is located approximately in the geographic center of Thomasville. The central location makes it easily accessible for all the students, as none of them has an abnormal walking distance to the school. The student enrollment is not near the capacity of the plant -- being 145 less -- so the school has room for more students.

The only problem of the school is the inadequate site. A high school with the number of pupils that Main Street can house should have close to 24 acres. Presently, the school is located on a site of only 6.5 acres which is insufficient even for recreational purposes. Should this school expand physically, recreation facilities will have to be located elsewhere in the City.

Every available classroom is now being used as science laboratories, libraries, etc., which are necessary in a junior high school. Two rooms are also being converted into annex rooms for the cafeteria as present conditions are deplorable. A new cafeteria is urgently needed but there are no funds available for buying equipment. The two rooms were made available for use because the old Post Office building was given to the school system by the United States Government. It now has been converted into a Vocational Education Department for Main Street School. The building located one block from the school will alleviate conditions for a few years, but the whole school building should be renovated and a cafeteria wing added.

Thomasville Senior High School

This school is located in a campus-type atmosphere on 31 acres in the northeast quadrant of the City and appears to have been designed with the future in mind. Its site is more than adequate and it is capable of handling an additional 200 students.

Good streets lead to the school, making it accessible; however, the school is not located near the center of population. Therefore, students living in the southern part of town have an excessive walking distance when compared with Table 4 and shown on Map 5.

Future plans for the high school call for the construction of a combined auditorium and music hall, gymnasium, vocational shop, and athletic field. Also, the entire campus is planned to be landscaped.

Church Street School

This facility is a combined elementary, junior high and senior high school. It is located in a predominately non-white area on ten acres of land and offers education for the non-white students in Thomasville. Based on the number of students and the number of grades in the school, the site should be 20 acres or more -- which is twice the amount currently being used.

The school is capable of housing 155 additional students but the non-white population is increasing quite rapidly and it will be in a very short time that this school will be operating at full capacity.

Table 2 on page 5 of this report portrays Thomasville's population by broad age groups from 1950 to 1980. Of importance in this section on schools is the school age group 5 to 19.

In 1960 there was an estimated 3,740 students attending Thomasville schools. For the school year ending June, 1964, there were approximately 4,255 students representing an increase of about 515 students. During this four-year period there was a total of ten classrooms added to the schools in the system and a new six-room school was built. This new construction indicates that the school district has been meeting the student population increases.

By 1980 it is anticipated that there will be approximately 8,200 students of school age within the Thomasville school system. This represents a 3,945 student increase over the existing enrollment of 4,255. Based on the standard of 30 students per classroom, it means that Thomasville will need 131 more classrooms by 1980. This is equivalent to about four new schools. This projection does not say at what levels (elementary or high school) new schools will be needed as the data available is not broken down into the age groups of students attending these schools. Therefore, it is difficult to say whether a new high school, junior high or elementary school will be needed by 1980; however, the analysis does success in pointing out what to expect in the future in the way of new school construction.

Many of the schools in Thomasville may be adequate or inadequate in terms of classrooms, but there are other elements in a school system that should exist such as a good library and librarians, guidance counselors, good gymnasiums, and playfields. In many of the schools these facilities do not exist and/or are there but are not at a level to serve adequate the students. These facilities are a must to any educational system.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Although the following recommendations are sometimes general and sometimes specific in content, the purpose here is to stimulate long-range thought and action. Before action is taken, a thorough study should be made of all inadequacies and a long-range priority program should be made to correct any deficiencies.

1. Additional classrooms should be added to Liberty Drive and Turner Street elementary schools.

2. Consideration should be given to constructing a new elementary school in the northeast quadrant or the southeast quadrant to offer relief to the growing enrollment of the Colonial Drive school. As an alternative, it is proposed that the size of this district be reduced by adding some of the area to the Liberty Drive district and adding wings as needed at that location.

3. Long-range planning should begin on relocation and/or expansion of the Kern Street elementary school. If relocated, it is recommended that a site near the center of the northeast quadrant be selected.

4. Construction of new schools is anticipated in the immediate future; therefore, action should be taken to purchase land while land values are los and the areas are not built up.

5. It is recommended that additional land be purchased around those schools that have inadequate sites.

6. A detailed long-range school improvement program should be prepared, showing the needs and the goals of the school districts.

7. It is recommended that those schools without librarians and related services be given these services.

8. It is recommended that the School Board and Planning Commission work more closely should the matter of a new school location come up.

LIBRARIES IN THOMASVILLE

The Thomasville Public Library, a branch library of the County system, located just south of the central business district on Randolph Street, was built in 1957. Prominent citizens of the City contributed most of the funds to have it constructed. These gifts, plus County funds, made it possible for Thomasville to have its own library.

The facility contains nearly 19,000 books, adequate seating facilities, children's room, adult room, storage rooms, and a club room capable of seating 100 persons. An addition has been made recently to the library, making it possible for it to house approximately 10,000 more books. The site is adequate and future expansion can take place without hardship.

Parking is allowed on the streets bordering the library, and patrons are also using a church lot directly across the street.

A branch of the County system is located in Thomasville. It is called the Brown Street Library and is located one block west of Salem Street on Brown Street. It is a small frame building that was once used as a residence. Since it is located in proximity to Church Street School it might adequately serve the residents in this area; however, from the standpoint of the volumes of books and services it is inadequate. Also, there are limitations in the site in terms of physical expansion potential.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Considering the new Thomasville Library is better equipped to serve the residents of the City than the Brown Street Library and that it is an unnecessary duplication of facilities, it is recommended that the Brown Street Library be allowed to continue its service, but in time its use should be terminated.

2. Vacant land now borders the new Thomasville Library in back of the structure. It is recommended that this land be purchased for future possible expansion and parking.

RECREATION FACILITIES

RECREATION FACILITIES

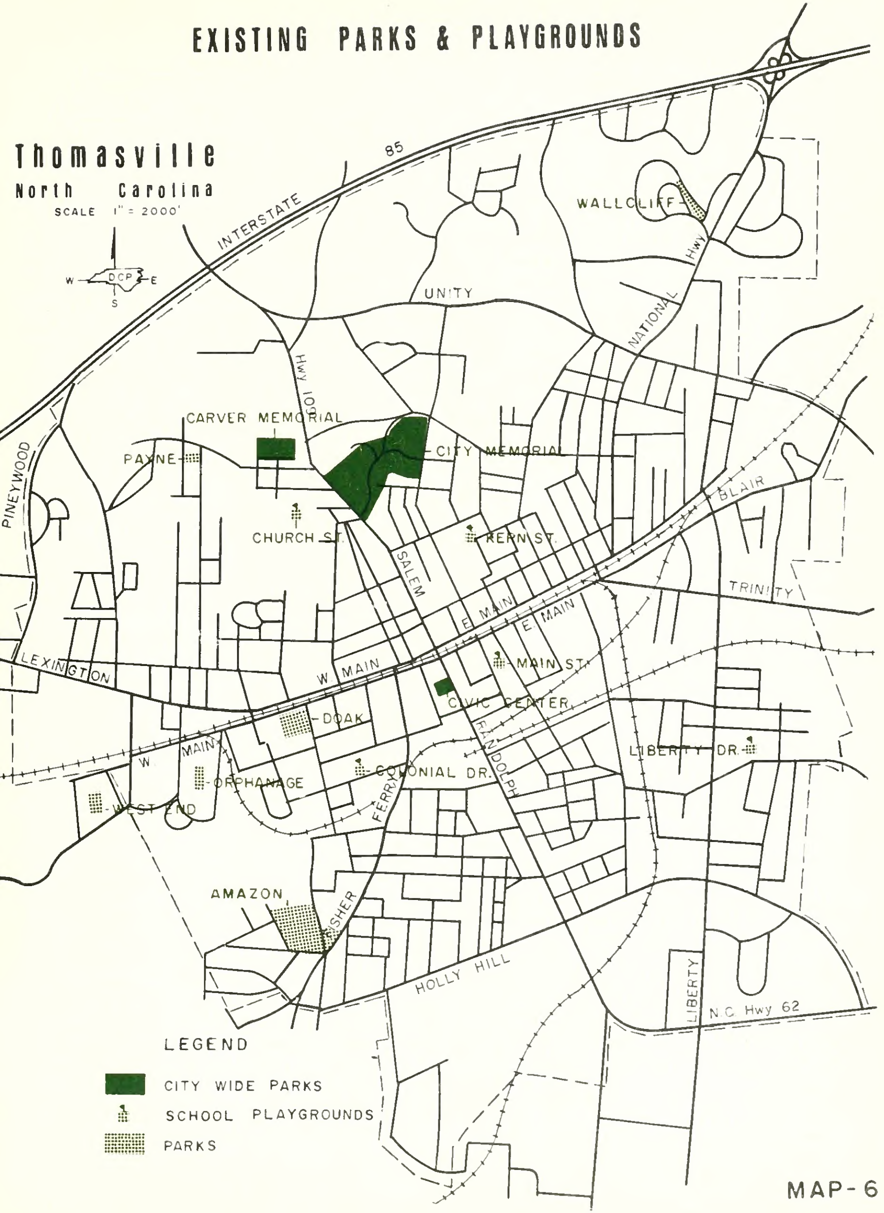
Recreation facilities are needed in all cities as man of today is spending more of his time at leisure activity than his counterpart of yesterday.

Recreation facilities are generally classified into two categories -- active and passive. Active facilities include neighborhood playgrounds and city-wide facilities such as swimming pools and golf courses. Passive facilities accompany the active facilities and include areas for walking and just sitting. Active recreation facilities provide opportunity for exercise and exposure to the sun which is especially necessary for children. Passive facilities help to relieve the pent-up nervous strain of urban living and offer "breathing areas" in densely urbanized areas of the city.

The responsibility of providing and operating recreation facilities in Thomasville rests with the Recreation Commission and the Recreation Department. Seven parks are currently maintained by the Department. They are Memorial, Carver, Payne, Wallcliff, Kings, Doak and Amazon. There is also a Civic Center Building which is an all-purpose structure for indoor recreation.

Table 5 is a list of the parks with respective acreages and available facilities. Notice that they are listed according to the area they serve. The locations of these parks are shown on Map 6. From this information it might be thought that Thomasville is served with a good number of parks, well-located. This is not necessarily true. On close inspection of Map 6 it can be seen that the southeast quadrant does not have a neighborhood recreation area and is not close to existing city-wide parks. This superficial analysis points out the need for added recreation facilities in this area. The practice of the past has been to develop a few large outlying parks and ignore the needs of those who live far from these parks and can use them only infrequently.

EXISTING PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS



MAP-6

TABLE 5 EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

Name	Size	Facilities Available
CITY-WIDE FACILITIES		
Memorial Park	40 acres	Tennis courts, football stadium, swimming pool, wading pool, softball field, volley ball court, badminton court, horseshoe court, picnic area with shelter, health room, bath house and related slides and swing sets.
Carver Park	10 acres	Swimming pool, and bath house, shuffle board court, picnic area, and related slides and swing sets.
Civic Center Building	1 acre	General purpose rooms for indoor recreation facilities. Site includes an area with slides and swing sets.
NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITIES		
Northwest[1]		
Payne Park	1 acre	Little League field.
Northeast[2]		
Wallcliff Park	1 acre	Slide and swing sets and picnic area.
Southwest		
Doak Park	6 acres	Shelter with picnic area, Little League field, tennis courts, horseshoe courts, slide and swing sets.
Amazon Park	15 acres	Softball field and basketball field.
Westend Park	4 acres	Softball field, basketball goal, shelter, picnic area, and merry-go-around
Southeast		
None	--	--

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[1] Randolph and Salem Streets and the Southern Railroad divides the City into four quadrants referred to as Northwest, Northeast, Southwest and Southeast.

[2] Privately owned by people living in Wallcliff Subdivision but maintained by the City.

Table 5 (continued)

PLAYGROUNDS

Liberty Drive School in Southeast.
Church Street School in Northeast.
Kern Street School in Northwest.
Colonial Drive School in Southwest.

OTHER FACILITIES

Finch Field	7 acres	Lighted baseball field.
Abbott Creek Reservoir		Picnic and fishing facilities.
Mills Home		Recreation facilities for use of orphanage. Private.
Hinkle Golf Course		9 hole golf course. Private.
Colonial Golf Course		18 hole golf course. Private.

Another means of determining the quantitative level of open space or parks is to compare the existing acreages of park and land against accepted standards. The accepted standard used herein may vary from city to city depending on local conditions. However, the standard recommended by the National Recreation Association of ten acres of recreation land per 1,000 persons may be used as a goal that the City should seek to achieve. This standard is based on a city-wide total. With approximately 15,000 people, Thomasville should have about 150 acres. There are about 80 acres presently used for recreation -- meaning that Thomasville has a deficit of 70 acres. With the population projected to 27,500 by 1980, the need for additional recreation land will become even more acute.

The above discussion does not go into a great deal of depth. However, it does point out some of the obvious deficiencies and the expectations of the future. A thorough study, such as a

Recreation Plan, would be more complete and would provide good footing in determining the location, size and extend of future recreation facilities. Such a study will not be done by the Planning Commission at this time; however, the Commission will recognize existing deficiencies and will show general locations where this type use might be best located when the Land Development Plan is prepared.

Thomasville is fortunate in having the variety of recreation facilities that it has; however, it is important that it continue to improve and expand the park system so that the demands of an increasing population can be met.

A good diversified recreation system with parks and playgrounds provides other benefits to a city. For instance, they keep children off the streets and out of trouble; they help to stabilize property values; and as industry is finding out today, recreation facilities act as an incentive for new employees to locate in a particular city. These are just a few important facts explaining why Thomasville should move ahead and plan for more recreation facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that a complete recreation study of existing and future facilities be made so that Thomasville will have direction in regards to the future type and location of recreation facilities.
2. The land surrounding Abbotts Creek Reservoir owned by the Cities of Thomasville and Lexington is being developed by the two cities as a park for their respective citizens. Because it is not located in either of the two cities, and because it might be used extensively by County residents or residents of the region, it might be best to have the park developed by a larger government such as the County or State. As an alternative the two cities could continue to control the operation and development of this area but with County assistance. It is recommended that Thomasville investigate these possibilities.

OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES

CITY HALL

CEMETERY SERVICE

CITY HALL

City Hall occupies nearly a block of land on West Guilford Street adjacent to the central business district. With the Davidson County office located directly across the street and with several churches in proximity to these buildings, the area is set off from the adjacent land uses. Thus, it can be said that this area is a combined governmental and cultural center among the business activity surrounding it.

The building was erected by the City in 1938 with matching funds provided by the Public Works Administration. The offices or departments housed in the building include:

City Manager's Office
Public Works Department, Administration, Engineering and Inspection Divisions
Police Department and Fire Department, including jail facilities
Recorder's Courtroom and Clerk's Office
Finance Department
Utilities Department, Billing and Collection Division
Recreation Department
City Council Room
N. C. Drivers License Examiner's Office

Space requirements are increasing in City Hall as the level of service and size of departments continue to growh. The Police and Fire Chiefs have felt the need for more room and are studying the problem.

The site is adequate and has room to handle future physical expansion, but it will mean the displacement of parking around the buildings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that the City consider hiring an architect to work out short-range and long-range plans for either alterations or structural additions to the facility.

CEMETERY SERVICE

The City of Thomasville owns and maintains one cemetery of approximately seven acres. It is located between East Guilford and Leonard Streets and has been in operation since the City was founded. Consequently, all the plots have been sold and it is now filled. In order to keep it clean and attractive the City assigns one man to the cemetery.

Thomasville's churches now fulfill the need for burial plots. In many instances, burial grounds are located on the same site as the church.

Holly Hills Cemetery, located south of town on a large tract of land, was developed in 1947, and it provides most of the burial needs of the City's residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Considering that Holly Hills Cemetery is large enough to last several years and that churches are providing burial plots, it is recommended that the City not develop any additional public cemeteries.

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